

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1199

By Yokley

## A RESOLUTION designating May 4-10, 2008, as "Arson Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, arson is a serious crime that affects all people and can only be stopped when citizens realize the physical and emotional damage suffered by arson victims and the toll arson takes on communities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to bring national attention to the dangers of arson, Arson Awareness Week will be recognized nationally May 4-10, 2008; the focus of this year's Arson Awareness Week will once again be the importance of juvenile arson prevention; and

WHEREAS, one of the imminent fire dangers presented to children is the attractiveness of novelty lighters, which, due to their visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds, and toy-like designs, draw the attention of children of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled thousands of novelty lighters since 1996 due to the danger they present to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the setting of fires by juveniles has been identified as the fastest-growing fire threat in the United States; fires set by juveniles account for more than 300 deaths annually, 30 percent of whom are children, and nearly \$1 billion in damages to property; and

WHEREAS, two states, Maine and Tennessee, in recognizing the danger novelty lighters present to children, have banned the sale of all toy-like and novelty lighters, and several other states are considering the implementation of similar bans; and

WHEREAS, this Body is wholly supportive of any measure that brings attention to the dangers of juvenile arson and encourages the citizens of Tennessee to recognize the efforts and sacrifices of fire and law enforcement officials, both volunteer and career, who protect families and property and who tirelessly work to deter further incidents of juvenile arson; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 4-10, 2008, as "Arson Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.